

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for accessing the content of various types of media files using a single interface, comprising:

a client receiver for receiving remote data from a remote device, where the remote data includes remote program modules and remote media format access data that corresponds to a set of remote media formats, wherein the client receiver initiates communication with the remote device;

a client storage unit for storing client data, the client data further comprising:

a roster of client media formats that are accessible by the system;

a set of client media format access data; and

a set of client program modules;

wherein received remote media format access data is stored as client media format access data, and received remote program modules are stored as client program modules;

a client transmitter for transmitting client data to the remote device, wherein client data sent by the transmitter to the remote device includes status information that indicates the status of the client data;

a client processor for executing any of the set of client program modules and for using the client media format access data to access the content of media files, wherein the set of client media format access data comprises at least one codec shared by more than one of the remote media formats and wherein the at least one codec is used to access the content of the media files without previously associating the client media formats with the client program modules; and

a client media format controller for updating the set of client media access data by automatically accessing a plurality of remote devices each of which supports fewer than all the client media access formats supported by the client media format controller so as to add remote media format access data received from the plural remote devices, for replacing client media format access data with corresponding remote media format access data received from the plural remote devices when the existing stored client media access format data is damaged and for deleting client media format access data.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the client receiver is for receiving remote data from a remote device when the system encounters a media file that has a media format that is not present in the roster of client media formats, and where the remote data includes remote media format access data that enables the system to access the content of the encountered media file.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein client data transmitted to the remote device includes identifying data and billing information.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a decrypter for decrypting the remote data; and
an encrypter for encrypting the client data prior to transferring the client data to
the remote device.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a client program
module controller for updating the set of client program modules by adding remote
program modules received from the remote device, for replacing client program
modules with corresponding remote program modules received from the remote device,
and for deleting client program modules.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the client media
format controller updates the set of client media formats and associated client media
format access data upon receiving an inquiry from at least one remote device.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the client program module
controller updates the set of client program modules upon receiving an inquiry from the
remote device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a network interface
for interfacing with the Internet.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface (GUI), the GUI further comprising:
 - means for selecting media files to be accessed by the system;
 - means for controlling the appearance of the GUI, wherein the GUI is customizable such that a user can determine how the GUI is displayed; and
 - means for controlling the functionality of the GUI, wherein the GUI is customizable such that a user can determine the frequency and manner of data transfers to and from the remote device;

wherein user customizations are stored in the client storage unit as personalization data.
11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the processor accesses the content of media files according to the stored personalization data.
12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the GUI displays a roster of the set of client media formats in a user-readable format.
13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the roster includes the status of the client data.
14. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the GUI further comprises a graphic equalizer.

15. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the GUI further comprises a viewing area.

16. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the client transmitter transmits the stored personalization data to the remote device and the remote device stores the personalization data in a remote storage unit.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the client media format controller replaces client media format access data when corresponding remote media format access data is received from the remote device.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the client media format controller replaces client media format access data if the corresponding remote media format access data is a newer version.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the client program module controller replaces a client program module according the personalization data.

21. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the client program module controller replaces a client program module when a corresponding remote program module is received from the remote device.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the client program module controller replaces a client program module if the corresponding remote program module is a newer version.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the client program module controller replaces a client program module if the client program module is damaged.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for maintaining and distributing media formats, comprising:

a remote media format controller for compiling remote media format access data usable for accessing the content of a set of remote media formats when the existing stored remote media access data is damaged, and for updating the remote media format access data by accessing a plurality of remote devices each of which supports fewer than all the remote media formats of the set of remote media formats, wherein the remote media format controller initiates communication with the plurality of remote devices;

a remote program module controller for compiling and updating a set of remote program modules;

a remote storage unit for storing the remote media format access data and the set of remote program modules;

a remote encrypter for encrypting the remote media format access data and the remote program modules; and

a remote transmitter for transmitting remote media format access data and remote program modules to at least one client device that is connected to the communications network;

wherein the set of remote media formats includes at least one commercially available media format wherein the set of remote media format access data comprises at least one codec and wherein the at least one codec shared by more than one of the remote media formats and is used to access the content of media files without previously associating the remote media formats with the remote program modules.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a remote receiver for receiving client data from the client device; and

a remote decrypter for decrypting the client data.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the remote receiver is for uploading billing and user identification data from the client device.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the remote receiver is for uploading data indicating the status of client media format access data stored on the client device and wherein the remote transmitter is for downloading the remote media format access data to the client device according to the uploaded status data.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the remote receiver is for uploading data indicating the status of client program modules stored on the client device and wherein the remote transmitter is for downloading the remote program modules to the client device according to the uploaded status data.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the remote receiver is for uploading user personalization data, and the remote transmitter is for downloading remote media format access data and remote program modules according the user personalization data.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the personalization data further controls the frequency and manner of downloading and storage of the remote program modules, and the personalization data controls the links to the media files.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the remote storage unit further functions to store the personalization data.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying content of media files, comprising:

storing a set of client program modules and a set of client media format access data on a client device;

connecting the client device to a communications network;

comparing the set of client media format access data to a set of remote media format access data;

downloading members of a set of remote media format access data when the media format comparison indicates that existing stored remote media format access data is damaged;

storing the members of the set of remote media format access data in the set of client media format access data on the client device;

accessing the content of the media files using the client media format access data, wherein the set of client media format access data comprises at least one codec and wherein the at least one codec is used to access the content of the media files without previously associating client media formats with the client program modules; and

downloading members of the set of remote media format access data from a plurality of remote devices each of which supports fewer than all the remote media format access data according to the personalization data, wherein downloading members of the set of remote media format access data from a plurality of remote devices comprises the client program modules initiating communication with the plurality of remote devices.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
comparing a set of client program modules to a set of remote program modules;
downloading members of a set of remote program modules in response to the
program module comparison; and
storing the members of the set of remote program modules in the set of client
program modules on the client device.
34. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising decrypting the
members of the set of remote media format access data.
35. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising decrypting the
members of the set of remote program modules.
36. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising implementing
customizations to the appearance and functionality of a graphical user interface (GUI)
and storing the customizations as personalization data.
37. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising transmitting the
personalization data to a remote device.
38. (Cancelled)

39. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
implementing customizations to the appearance and functionality of the GUI and
storing the customizations as personalization data; and
downloading members of the set of remote program modules according to the
personalization data.

40. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising transmitting data to
a remote device.

41. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising transmitting billing
and identifying data to the remote device.

42. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein transmitting data further
comprises encrypting the data.

43. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein storing the members of the set
of remote media format access data further comprises deleting corresponding members
of the set of client media format access data previously stored on the client device.

44. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein storing the members of the set
of remote program modules further comprises deleting corresponding members of the
set of client program modules previously stored on the client device.

45. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining and distributing media format access data, comprising:

a set of remote media format access data that is usable to access the content of at least one commercially available media format;

storing the set of remote media format access data on a remote server;

storing additional media format access data in the set of remote media formats by obtaining the additional media format access data from a plurality of remote devices each of which supports fewer than all the media format access data of the set of remote media format access data; and

downloading media format access data to a client device when the existing media access data stored on the client device is damaged, wherein the media format access data comprises at least one codec shared by more than one of the remote media formats and wherein the at least one codec is used to access the content of the at least one commercially available media format without previously associating the at least one commercially available media format with a program module running on the client device, wherein downloading media format access data to a client device comprises the client device initiating communications with the plurality of remote devices to download media format access data.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein obtaining the additional media format access data further comprises retrieving media format access data that have no corresponding members in the set of remote media format access data.

47. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein obtaining the additional media format access data further comprises retrieving media format access data that are newer than the corresponding members of the set of remote media format access data.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising uploading status data from the client device, where the status data indicates the status of a set of client media format access data, and wherein downloading data to the client device further comprises downloading data to the client device according to the status data.

49. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein downloading data comprises transmitting the data over the Internet.

50. (Original) The method of claim 45, further comprising uploading billing and identifying data from the client device.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein uploading status data further comprises uploading a result of a comparison of the set of remote media format access data to the set of client media format access data.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, further comprising:
compiling a set of remote program modules;
storing the set of remote program modules on the remote server; and
storing additional remote program modules on the remote server by adding
program modules that have no corresponding members in the set of remote program
modules;

downloading program modules from the set of remote program modules to the
client device according to the status data;
wherein the status data further indicates the status of a set of client program
modules.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the status data further
includes user personalization data.

54. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising encrypting data
downloaded from the remote server.

55. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising decrypting data
uploaded to the remote server.

56. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein downloading data to the client
device is initiated by the remote server.

57. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein downloading data to the client device is initiated by the client device.

58. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon executable code which causes a machine to perform a method of displaying content of media files, the method comprising:

storing a set of client program modules and a set of client media format access data on a client device;

connecting the client device to a communications network;

comparing the set of client media format access data to a set of remote media format access data;

downloading members of a set of remote media format access data from a plurality of remote devices each of which supports fewer than all member of the set of remote media format access data, when the media format comparison indicates that existing stored remote media format access data is damaged, wherein downloading member of a set of remote media format access data comprises the client device initiating communication with the plurality of remote devices;

storing the members of the set of remote media format access data in the set of client media format access data on the client device; and

accessing the content of the media files using the client media format access data, wherein the set of client media format access data comprises at least one codec shared by more than one of the media files and wherein the at least one codec is used

to access the content of the media files without previously associating client media formats with the client program modules.

59. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein the method further comprises:

comparing a set of client program modules to a set of remote program modules;
downloading members of a set of remote program modules in response to the program module comparison; and
storing the members of the set of remote program modules in the set of client program modules on the client device.

60. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein the method further comprises decrypting the members of the set of remote media format access data.

61. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein the method further comprises decrypting the members of the set of remote program modules.

62. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein the method further comprises implementing customizations to the appearance and functionality of a graphical user interface (GUI) and storing the customizations as personalization data.

63. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein the method further comprises transmitting the personalization data to a remote device.

64. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein the method further comprises downloading members of the set of remote media format access data according to the personalization data.

65. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein the method further comprises:

implementing customizations to the appearance and functionality of the GUI and storing the customizations as personalization data; and

downloading members of the set of remote program modules according to the personalization data.

66. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein the method further comprises transmitting data to the remote device.

67. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein the method further comprises transmitting billing and identifying data to the remote device.

68. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 66, wherein transmitting data further comprises encrypting the data.

69. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 58, wherein storing the members of the set of remote media format access data further comprises deleting corresponding members of the set of client media format access data previously stored on the client device; and wherein storing the members of the set of remote program modules further comprises deleting corresponding members of the set of client program modules previously stored on the client device.

70. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon executable code which causes a machine to perform a method for maintaining and distributing media format access data, the method comprising:

compiling a set of remote media format access data that is usable to access the content of at least one commercially available media format;

storing the set of remote media format access data on a remote server;

storing additional media format access data in the set of remote media formats by obtaining the additional media format access data from a plurality of remote devices each of which supports fewer than all members of the set of remote media format access data; and

downloading media format access data to a client device when the existing media access data stored on the client device is damaged, wherein the media format access data comprises at least one codec and wherein the at least one codec is used to access the content of the at least one commercially available media format without previously associating the at least one commercially available media format with a program module running on the client device, wherein downloading media format

access data comprises the client device initiating communication with the plurality of remote devices.

71. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 70, wherein obtaining the additional media format access data further comprises retrieving media format access data that have no corresponding members in the set of remote media format access data.

72. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 70, wherein obtaining the additional media format access data further comprises retrieving media format access data that are newer than the corresponding members of the set of remote media format access data.

73. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 70, wherein the method further comprises uploading status data from the client device, where the status data indicates the status of a set of client media format access data, and wherein downloading data to the client device further comprises downloading data to the client device according to the status data.

74. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 70, wherein downloading data comprises transmitting the data over the Internet.

75. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 70, wherein the method further comprises uploading billing and identifying data from the client device.

76. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 73, wherein uploading status data further comprises uploading a result of a comparison of the set of remote media format access data to the set of client media format access data.

77. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 70, wherein the method further comprises:

compiling a set of remote program modules;
storing the set of remote program modules on the remote server; and
storing additional remote program modules on the remote server by adding program modules that have no corresponding members in the set of remote program modules;

downloading program modules from the set of remote program modules to the client device according to the status data;

wherein the status data further indicates the status of a set of client program modules.

78. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 77, wherein the status data further includes user personalization data.

79. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 77, wherein the method further comprises encrypting data downloaded from the remote server.

80. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 77, wherein the method further comprises decrypting data uploaded to the remote server.

81. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 70, wherein downloading data to the client device is initiated by the remote server.

82. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 70, wherein downloading data to the client device is initiated by the client device.

83. (New) The system of claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface (GUI), wherein when the GUI accesses at least one of the remote media formats that contains at least one audio component and no visual component, the GUI having a screen configured to become invisible, leaving only a user control visible.